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# The Peaceful Wife

LIVING IN SUBMISSION TO  
Christ <sup>AS</sup> Lord

Discussion Guide for

*The  
Peaceful  
Wife*



## Our Story

1. What were your feelings on your wedding day? Were you excited and exhilarated, or terrified? What stands out most in your memory now?
2. What expectations did you bring with you into your marriage? What has happened to your expectations since then?
3. What example(s) of marriage did you see in your family? What example(s) of marriage did your husband see in his family? How did your families shape your perception of what marriage is supposed to be?
4. What personality traits do you and your husband have? How are they similar? How are they different?
5. How are you used to interacting with people based on your childhood family?



## Finding the Missing Piece of the Puzzle

1. Had you ever heard about the concept of a wife respecting her husband before or is this all new to your ears? What are your initial thoughts? Do you find yourself feeling angry, sad, afraid, or excited? Why?
2. Has God ever opened your eyes to sin in your life that you had not seen before? What was that experience like? How do you feel about it now? Was this chapter surprising or maybe even a wake-up call in your own life? If so, what did God reveal to you?
3. What is your relationship like with Jesus Christ? Have you chosen to follow Him as both Savior and Lord?
4. What are your beliefs about love and respect in marriage and about masculine/feminine dynamics in marriage?
5. What do you believe husbands and wives need in marriage? Are their needs the same? Should they be?
6. What messages have you absorbed from your family, your friends, our culture, and even maybe the church about these things? Could it be important to spend some time questioning things you may have always believed to be true about masculinity, femininity, and marriage in light of the Bible?



## Let's Be Honest

1. How did you feel about the self-evaluation? Do you feel confident, overwhelmed, discouraged, confused, or upset? Why?
2. What kind of wife do you desire to be?
3. How do you believe a wife becomes a more godly wife?
4. Do you think it is possible for wives to begin to live more and more as a wife from Part 2 of the evaluation? Why or why not? Have you ever known a woman who lived this way for the most part?
5. Do you believe your husband has been feeling generally respected by you? Why or why not?
6. What fears do you have in your own life and marriage? List as many as you can think of.
7. Could pride be an issue in your life? If so, what do you believe God desires you to do?
8. Do you believe you may depend too much on feelings and emotions?
9. What assumptions do think you have in your marriage?



## The Absolute Lordship of Christ

1. What do you believe about God's character? How does that affect your willingness to trust Him and yield control of your life to Him?
2. What do you believe about your own character? Do you believe you are a pretty good person generally? Or do you believe you have a fatal sin problem? How do you believe you can be right with God?
3. Are there any ways you see that you may have disrespected God, maybe without realizing it at the time?
4. What areas of your life are you afraid to give to God completely?
5. What are some ways you want to begin to show proper reverence to God?
6. What do you think about the idea of marriage being a living picture of the relationship between Christ and the church? Does it make you feel sad? Or does it bring you great joy and maybe even a light bulb moment? Why?



## God's Beautiful Design

1. Submission is a tough concept today, especially because there are so many preconceived notions about it in our culture. What have you generally thought in the past when you thought about submission in marriage? Where did these ideas come from?
2. Is it difficult to separate the concept of a person's worth in God's eyes from a position of authority? If so, why do you think that is a hard thing to do?
3. Do you believe a wife can submit to God and to her husband without being oppressed? Why or why not?
4. Why does God incorporate a chain of command into His design for marriage and family?
5. What do you believe about mutual submission? Are you willing to let go of any preconceived ideas and prayerfully research God's design and seek to understand His intention for marriage even if this is a totally different picture of marriage than what you had embraced before?
6. Does God ever command a husband to force his wife to submit to him? Does God ever command a wife to force her husband to love her? Why? Where is freewill for each spouse?

7. Does God force us to submit to Christ? Can we force God to love us?
8. What are your greatest fears about submission in marriage as a wife?
9. What are your husband's beliefs about a wife's submission?
10. Do you feel safe in your marriage? If not, are you willing to seek appropriate help and counsel?
11. What are some times when a wife would need to submit to God and not to her husband?
12. Does it seem like wives get the raw end of the deal, like maybe God is holding out on us? What blessings are there in walking in obedience to God and in submission primarily to Him as Lord?
13. How might a wife's submission bring glory and honor to Christ and the gospel?





## Recognizing Disrespect

1. How are you feeling after reading about what husbands feel can seem disrespectful to them? Why? Was anything on this list surprising to you?
2. Before reading this chapter, what was your definition of disrespect in marriage?
3. What issues related to disrespect is God gently placing His finger on in your life that He may want you to prayerfully address?
4. What did you relate to, if anything, in Kayla's story, "My Demon"? Were there any "aha" moments for you?
5. Did anything surprise you in Greg's story, "The Voice in His Head"? What insights into a husband's masculine perspective do you feel like you gleaned? Do you think your husband may have a similar voice in his head?
6. Is your voice in your husband's life aligning with God's voice or with Satan's voice? Are there any changes you believe God desires you to make at this time?
7. What are the top three most pressing disrespect issues you see in your life that you need to stop right away if you are struggling in this area?



## Acknowledging Our Sin

1. Take a few moments and write down anything you believe God is labeling as sin in your life and lay it before God. When you believe you see the scope of all of it, perhaps you would like to write a prayer, or pray out loud and ask God for forgiveness for any wrong doing in your life.
2. Are you willing to forsake those sins you've written down, receive God's forgiveness, and start from scratch? What do you think might be holding you back?
3. Do you believe God desires you to apologize for anything to your husband? If so, how might He be prompting you to move forward? With words first, or just with actions?
4. Which wife's apologizing story touched you the most? Why?
5. Are you feeling afraid about taking a step to directly acknowledge your sin? If so, why?



## My Husband Shares His Heart

1. Have you ever heard a man describe what was going on in his heart and mind when he felt disrespected and controlled before? If so, what things did he share?
2. What really grabbed your attention in Greg's perspective?
3. In April's interview with Greg, which of his answers surprised you the most and why?
4. Do you believe your husband may have a similar perspective as Greg did? How do you think he might answer these questions?
5. If there is a lot of tension in your marriage, your husband may not feel safe enough to answer these things truthfully for a while. But if God prompts you, perhaps there may be some questions you might ask your husband or share Greg's answers with your husband and see what he thinks. Sometimes it is less threatening to ask it as a general question: "How do husbands feel when. . . ?"



## Learning the Language of Respect

1. When do you believe we began to lose respect for people, in general, and for men, specifically, in our culture? Why do you think this happened?
2. What examples of a wife genuinely respecting her husband have you witnessed?
3. What are a few things you could do that would definitely make your husband feel respected by you?
4. If you aren't sure what would most help your husband feel respected, how do you believe God might want you to approach finding the answers to this question?
5. How are you doing with showing respect nonverbally? Is there anything you believe God may desire you to change?
6. What are three things you can begin doing this month to start showing more respect to your husband?



## A Smorgasbord of Respect

1. What is the most challenging area for you to respect your husband spiritually?
2. Do you ever face the temptation to think of yourself as being a lot more spiritually mature than he is? How might God desire you to reframe your perspective?
3. What do you think about the idea of your husband leading in your family?
4. Are there areas where you have been trying to lead that you believe God might want you to back away from a bit?
5. What kind of marriage would you like to model for your children or for others around you?
6. What areas would you like to tackle first as you seek to begin to show more honor and respect for your husband?
7. What is your plan if your husband doesn't seem to appreciate the respect you try to show him?
8. Do you have a sense of how long of a process this journey might be?



## Communicating Our Desires Respectfully

1. Are there some specific situations you can think of in your marriage where it may be best to say nothing for a time?
2. What area is the most challenging for you to avoid rushing to speak when maybe silence would be wise – unsolicited advice, when the flesh is weak, when you have sinful motives, or when you want to share a critical comment about something minor? Why do you think that might be so difficult?
3. Are you ever timid or afraid to share when you know you should share something important with your husband? If so, why? What steps do you think you could take to move toward sharing in a healthy, godly way?
4. What is your initial response to the concept of “submitting under protest”? Do you think it would be an effective method of dealing with a disagreement? Why or why not?
5. What stands out most to you in “The Van Battery Incident”?
6. What thoughts did you have as you read, “My Story Blessed Another Wife”? How do you think you might have responded if you were faced with a similar scenario in the past? How do you want to respond now?



## Respecting Our Husbands During Conflict

1. How do you generally feel about conflict with your husband? Is it a positive or negative experience? Why? Do you feel afraid? How does he respond? Does he get angry or shut down?
2. What would you like conflict to look like in your marriage?
3. Are there any disagreements in your marriage that you believe God might desire you to give grace and allow your husband to do things the way he prefers?
4. What are the most difficult disagreements you and your husband tend to have? How might you approach them differently knowing what you know now?
5. Have you ever honored your husband's leadership during a disagreement and seen God bring something amazing from that situation?
6. How might God desire to use your godly response to conflict to bless and strengthen your marriage and to inspire your husband to draw nearer to Christ? Have you ever confronted your husband's sin in the past? How did it go?

7. What things do you believe God might want you to do the same next time? What things do you think God may prompt you to do differently next time?
8. What interested you most about how the various husbands in this chapter about conflict?
9. Does your husband tend to apologize without words? How might God desire you to respond?





## Sharing the Journey

1. Was it helpful to hear Bryan's perspective? Why or why not?
2. Which wife's story do you most relate to in this chapter?  
Why?
3. Of all the tips Alana shared, which three encouraged you the most?
4. What would you like to see God do with your story to bless many other people?